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DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB - MRS. CAKLEY; THE HAGUE ALSO FOR A-LAN AND B-LAN.

E.O. 12356- DEC 17 31, 1980

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, PINS, PINR, PROP, MCP, US, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: MAY 23 - MAY 30, 1983

REF: KABUL 0060

1. (ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE USED IN BRIEFING THE PRESS, PROTECTING SOURCES WHERE INDICATED.

3. SUMMARY: THE CALM WHICH PREVAILED IN KABUL FOR THREE WEEKS WAS SHATTERED DURING THE LAST WEEK OF MAY. IN ADDITION TO A GENERAL INCREASE IN THE SOUNDS OF POST-CURFEW FIGHTING, MUJAHIDEEN ATTACKED A NUMBER OF TARGETS NEAR THE CITY ON MAY 25. THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION NEAR POL-E-CHARKHI. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT, THE ATTACK INVOLVED MUJAHIDEEN FROM THREE FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO THE PLANT. HOWEVER, THE SIX DAMAGED TANKS WHICH WERE TAKEN FROM THE AREA THE NEXT DAY SUGGEST THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST RESISTANCE OPERATIONS NEAR KABUL IN RECENT MONTHS. DURING THE WEEK THERE WAS ALSO AN UPSURGE IN ASSASSINATIONS OF PARTY MEMBERS.

4. ON MAY 26 MUJAHIDEEN IN THE LOGAR VALLEY JUST SOUTH OF KABUL ATTACKED A REGIME FOOD CONVOY BOUND FOR PAKTIA. THE PROVISIONS WERE SEIZED AND THOSE SOLDIERS WHO WERE NOT KILLED EITHER DEFECTED
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PAGE 03 KABUL 00889: 01 OF 04 301211Z

TO OR WERE TAKEN PRISONER BY THE ATTACKERS. IN THE TOWN OF PASHMAN SOME 15 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KABUL, THE POLICE COMMANDANT WAS SEVERELY INJURED WHEN HIS JEEP STRUCK A MINE.

5. REPORTS FROM KANDAHAR INDICATE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN AND NEAR THE CITY IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS. THE GENERAL POPULACE'S WILLINGNESS FOR THE MUJAHIDEEN TO CARRY OUT OPERATIONS WITHIN THE CITY INCREASED FOLLOWING MID-MARCH AFGHAN/SOVIET HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES FOR CONSCRIPTS AND WEAPONS. SINCE THEN THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE HAS BEEN ATTACKED, A SECRET POLICE HEADQUARTERS MORTARED ON TWO OCCASIONS, SEVERAL PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN KIDNAPPED, AND THE AIR

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PORT OUTSIDE THE CITY ATTACKED. MUJAHIDEEN IN AREAS TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF THE CITY REMAIN A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR REGIME AND SOVIET CONVOYS TRAVELING TO AND FROM THE SOVIET BORDER NORTH OF HERAT. THOUGH REGIME CONTROL IN KANDAHAR HAS SLIPPED IN RECENT MONTHS, THE RESISTANCE IS PROBABLY NOT AS STRONG AS IN LATE 1981 PRIOR TO THE SAVAGE SOVIET/REGIME ATTACKS OF JANUARY AND MARCH 1982. THAT A MAJOR OPERATION HAS NOT BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN AND NEAR KANDAHAR RECENTLY IS PROBABLY AN INDICATION THAT SOVIET TROOPS ARE PREOCCUPIED ON OTHER FRONTS. END SUMMARY.

6. KABUL: THE RELATIVE CALM THAT CHARACTERIZED KABUL DURING THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF MAY WAS SHATTERED LAST WEEK. THERE WERE INCREASED SOUNDS OF POST-CURFEW FIGHTING MOST NIGHTS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE KOTE SANGI NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY AND THE DARULAMAN-CHILSITON AREA TO THE SOUTH. THE MOST INTENSE AND PROLONGED FIGHTING OCCURRED ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 25 WHEN MOST OF THE CITY HEARD THE SOUNDS OF TANK CANNON, ROCKETS AND MACHINE-GUN FIRE WHICH BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER THE 10 P.M. CURFEW AND LASTED UNTIL AROUND MIDNIGHT.

7. PIECING TOGETHER REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, IT APPEARS THAT A NUMBER OF RESISTANCE OPERATIONS OCCURRED ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 25 ONE MAJOR TARGET APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE IETZL-POWERED ELECTRIC GENERATING STATION AT PULAYACHARKHI.

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PAGE 04

KABUL 00889 01 OF 04 301211Z

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00889 02 OF 04 310212Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ACS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10
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C P 301055Z MAY 83 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1805

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY CHAKA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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CINCSAFEUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB GE

USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF//

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PAGE 02 KABUL 00889 02 OF 04 310212Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 04 KABUL 00889

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00889 01 OF 04 301211Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

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INFO RUHJPG AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1785

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PAGE 02 KABUL 00889 01 OF 04 301211Z

CONFIDENTIAL - SECTION 01 OF 04 KABUL 00889

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ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE ATTACK WAS A COORDINATED EFFORT BY FIGHTERS FROM THREE FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS: THE HEZB-E-ISLAMI, HARAKAT-E-INGILAB-E-ISLAMI, AND AL NASR, THE IRANIAN-SUPPORTED SHIA GROUP. THOUGH THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE GENERATING PLANT WAS DAMAGED, THE OPERATION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE LARGEST MOUNTED NEAR KABUL IN RECENT MONTHS. OBSERVERS SAW SIX DESTROYED OR BADLY DAMAGED TANKS/APC'S BEING TRANSPORTED FROM THE AREA OF THE ATTACK THE NEXT DAY. ALTHOUGH WE USUALLY CONSIDER BODY COUNTS UNTRUSTWORTHY, IN THIS CASE WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORTS THAT 35-50 REGIME TROOPS WERE KILLED. THE LARGE NUMBER OF WOUNDED STRAINED THE FACILITIES OF THE ALREADY CROWD 400-BED HOSPITAL.

8. THERE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ATTACKS ON OTHER TARGETS AROUND THE CITY THAT NIGHT, THOUGH WE HAVE LESS DETAILED INFORMATION. TRACERS WERE SEEN COMING FROM THE BALA HISAR AND, ACCORDING TO NE SOURCE, A MILITARY POST WAS ATTACKED BETWEEN THE BALA HISAR AND BINI HISAR SOUTH OF THE CITY. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT THERE WAS FIGHTING IN THE BAH SABZ AREA BEHIND THE AIRPORT AND NEAR THE VILLAGE OF SHEWAKI CLOSE TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE LOGAR VALLEY. PROLONGED EXCHANGES OF FIRE, INCLUDING TANK CANNON, ALSO EMANATED FROM NEAR THE CUSTOMS HOUSE ON THE ROAD TO JALALABAD.

9. NOTE: SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WE HEARD FROM ONE SOURCE THAT THE INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES VISIBLE AROUND THE CITY WERE DUE TO REGIME INFORMATION THAT A NUMBER OF AL NASR MUJAHIDEEN WERE INFILTRATING THE CITY. AS AL NASR'S ACTIVITIES ARE NORMALLY CONFINED TO THE HAZARAJAT, WE TEND TO DISMISS THE REPORT. THE

CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 03 KABUL 00889 02 OF 04 310212Z

ASSERTION BY A SEPARATE SOURCE THAT AL NASR FIGHTERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE MAY 25 ATTACK LENDS SOME CREDENCE, IF NOT CONFIRMATION, TO THE EARLIER REPORT. THERE ARE OTHER INDICATIONS OF INCREASED MUJAHIDEEN PRESENCE IN THE CITY.

10. THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ASSASSINATIONS THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE WEEK. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, AN ARMY LIEUTENANT WAS KILLED IN HIS HOUSE IN THE QALA-I-AGHA ALISHAMS NEIGHBORHOOD WHICH IS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF TOWN BETWEEN THE RIVER AND SHERDAWAZA MOUNTAIN. THAT SAME NIGHT IN THE SAME AREA A MERCHANT WAS ALSO KILLED IN HIS HOME, PERHAPS MISTAKEN FOR HIS BROTHER WHO IS A PARTY MEMBER. THE NEXT DAY A

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NURSE WHO WAS A PARTY MEMBER WAS ATTACKED IN THE KOTE SANGI AREA AND LATER DIED AT THE JAMHURIAT HOSPITAL. ALSO ON MAY 23 A FEMALE PARTY MEMBER WHO WORKED FOR AFGHAN FILMS WAS KILLED NEAR HER HOUSE. THIS WAS THE SECOND AFGHAN FILMS ASSASSINATION IN MAY AS A DIRECTOR WHO WAS A PARTY MEMBER WAS REPORTED KILLED IN HIS SLEEP AROUND MAY 15.

11. AMBUSH IN THE LOGAR VALLEY: ON THURSDAY MAY 26, A FOOD CONVOY BOUND FOR PAKTIA WAS AMBUSHED ABOUT TEN KILOMETERS INSIDE THE LOGAR VALLEY SOUTH OF KABUL. WITH THE CONVOY WERE APPROXIMATELY 200 REGIME SOLDIERS. AS MANY AS ONE-QUARTER OF THE SOLDIERS WERE KILLED OR SEVERLY WOUNDED. THE REMAINDER EITHER DEFECTED OR WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE MUJAHIDEEN. THE MAJORITY OF THE PROVISIONS WERE TAKEN ALONG WITH A NUMBER OF TRUCKS. FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE ENGAGEMENT WERE STILL TRYING TO COLLECT THEIR BODIES TWO DAYS LATER.

12. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT VILLAGES IN THE LOGAR VALLEY WERE SUBJECTED TO INTENSE AND PROLONGED BOMBING IN 1982. IN 1983, HOWEVER, THE MUJAHIDEEN IN THE AREA HAVE SUCCEEDED IN HARASSING, TURNING BACK, OR DESTROYING NUMEROUS CONVOYS TRAVELING THROUGH THE STRATEGIC VALLEY TOWARD PAKTIA.

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PAGE 01 KABL 00889 03 OF 04 301302Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1006

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DHAKA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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PAGE 02 KABL 00889 03 OF 04 301302Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 04 KABL 00889

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A-CAM AND R-CAM.

13. PAGHMAN: THOUGH PAGHMAN HAS NOT BEEN THE HOTSPOT FOR THE REGIME THAT IT WAS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, MUJAHIDEEN REMAIN ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE TRAFFIC FROM KABUL WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LARGE AND WELL-ARMED CONVOYS. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS THAT SOME OF MAS'UD'S FIGHTERS FROM THE PANJSHIR VALLEY HAVE GONE TO PAGHMAN, THOUGH FOR WHAT REASON IS NOT KNOWN. EARLY IN THE WEEK A JEEP CARRYING THE POLICE COMMANDANT OF PAGHMAN AND SEVERAL SOLDIERS STRUCK A MINE NEAR THE TOWN. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, THE COMMANDANT WAS KILLED WHILE ANOTHER SOURCE INDICATES THAT HE LOST A LEG.

14. SITUATION IN KANDAHAR: DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN AN APPRECIABLE INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN KANDAHAR CITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL KANDAHARI SOURCES (PROTECT) THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE RESISTANCE BY THE POPULACE WHO, FOLLOWING THE SAVAGE BOMBING IN JANUARY AND MARCH 1982, HAD ASKED THE RESISTANCE TO LIMIT ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE CITY. THE CHANGED POPULAR ATTITUDE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE MID-MARCH CORDONING OFF OF THE CITY AND INTENSIVE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES FOR CONSCRIPTS AND WEAPONS. THE SEARCHES MAY HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF SEVERAL SOVIETS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE TOWN IN EARLY MARCH. SOVIET SOLDIERS, WHO NORMALLY LEAVE THE SECURITY OF THE CITY IN THE HANDS OF REGIME TROOPS AND MILITIA, WERE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION WHICH, UNLIKE EARLY 1982, WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY AIR AND LAND BOMBARDMENTS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE OPERATIONS NETTED A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF RECRUITS AND KANDAHARIS COMPLAIN BITTERLY OF UNDER- AND OVER COVERAGE

CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 03 KABUL 00889 03 OF 04 301302Z

RELATIVES WHO WERE TAKEN.

15. SINCE THE CONSCRIPTION DRIVE, THE PACE OF RESISTANCE ACTIVITY WITHIN THE CITY HAS QUICKENED MARKEDLY. TOWARD THE END OF MARCH, THERE WAS A MAJOR ATTACK ON THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF TOWN IN WHICH A NUMBER OF SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. THEN, AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL, THE RESISTANCE STRUCK A POST IN THE SHAH ZAMAN AREA OF KANDAHAR'S SECOND DISTRICT NEAR THE ROAD LEADING OUT OF TOWN TO THE WEST. ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 2, FOUR RESISTANCE MORTAR ROUNDS HIT A KHAD (SECRET POLICE) HEADQUARTERS IN THE WESTERN PART OF KANDAHAR, REPORTEDLY KILLING SIX OR SEVEN FUNCTIONARIES IN THE BUILDING. ON THE NIGHT OF MAY

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478 THE RESISTANCE AGAIN ATTACKED THE HEADQUARTERS WITH MORTARS AND ROCKETS, REPORTEDLY AS MANY WERE KILLED DURING THE SECOND ATTACK. ALSO IN EARLY MAY, MUJAHIDEEN KIDNAPPED THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND ANOTHER BUSINESSMAN KNOWN TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE REGIME.

16. THE DRA REGIME IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN A PRESENCE OF SORTS IN THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN AREAS OF KANDAHAR, THANKS TO THE NUMEROUS POSTS ESTABLISHED IN AND AROUND KANDAHAR FOLLOWING THE 1982 CAMPAIGNS AND TO SOVIET TANKS STATIONED ALONG THE ROAD BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE AIRPORT 15-20 KILOMETERS TO THE EAST OF THE CITY FOR THE PAST 8 MONTHS. REGIME OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DRIVE UNESCORTED DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS ON THE ROAD BETWEEN THE AIRPORT AND THE CITY. HOWEVER, MUJAHIDEEN DO OCCASIONALLY MOUNT ATTACKS ON THE AIRPORT, THE MOST RECENT BEING A MORTAR AND ROCKET ATTACK DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY WHICH REPORTEDLY DAMAGED SEVERAL MIG'S. REGIME VEHICLES CAN ALSO MOVE REASONABLY FREELY ON THE MAIN ROADS RUNNING AROUND AND THROUGH THE FOUR OLD MARKET AREAS WHICH FORM A LARGE SQUARE IN THE CENTER OF TOWN. FOR THE MOST PART, THE MUJAHIDEEN DO NOT CARRY ARMS INSIDE THE CITY BY DAY, ALTHOUGH THEY BEGIN TO DO SO BY LATE AFTERNOON AND WALK UNCHALLENGED PAST SMALLER MILITARY AND PARTY POSTS SPRINKLED THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

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PAGE 04 KASUL 00029 03 OF 04 301302Z

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PAGE 01 KABUL 00009 04 OF 04 301321Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1007
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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FT BRAGG NC AFVS/POE/SB:
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCSAFEUR HEIDELBERG GE
HQSUSAF RAMSTEIN AFB GE
USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAF//
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PAGE 02 KABUL 00009 04 OF 04 301321Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 04 KABUL 00009

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17. IN THE AREA TO THE WEST OF TOWN, THE SITUATION IS VERY DIFFERENT. REGIME TRAFFIC MUST MOVE IN CONVOYS AND IS REGULARLY HARASSED BY RESISTANCE PATROLS AND AMBUSHES. ON MAY THIRD THE RESISTANCE STAGED A MAJOR ATTACK NEAR THE AND CHONK ON A CONVOY OF OVER 50 FUEL TRUCKS BEING ESCORTED FROM TORGHUNDI ON THE SOVIET/ AFGHAN BORDER NORTH OF HERAT. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE TRUCKS WERE BURNED, FURTHER COMPOUNDING THE PERENNIAL SHORTAGE OF FUEL WHICH PLAGUES SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES IN KANDAHAR.

18. THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND KANDAHAR ALSO PRESENTS CONTINUING PROBLEMS FOR THE REGIME. ONE TROUBLE SPOT IS KHAKREZ DISTRICT CENTER SOME 45-50 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KANDAHAR. AS WAS MENTIONED IN EARLIER REPORTS, KHAKREZ WAS WRESTED FROM RESISTANCE CONTROL IN FEBRUARY ONLY TO FALL INTO RESISTANCE HANDS AGAIN IN EARLY MARCH. THOUGH REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED ARE NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT, KHAKREZ APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED HANDS SEVERAL TIMES SINCE THEN. IN EARLY MAY, MUJAHIDEEN ARE SAID TO HAVE OVERRUN KHAKREZ, CAPTURING LARGE AMOUNTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION AND FIGHTING OFF AT LEAST ONE REGIME RELIEF COLUMN BEFORE WITHDRAWING.

19. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, THE NUMBER OF SOVIET SOLDIERS STATIONED AT THE AIRPORT HAS INCREASED ABOUT 20 PERCENT IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MID-MARCH SEARCH OF THE CITY PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR OPERATIONS IN OR NEAR KANDAHAR. THE BOMBING OF VILLAGES AROUND KANDAHAR, USUALLY IN RETALIATION FOR ATTACKS ON MILITARY POSTS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, HAS BEEN A CONSTANT FEATURE OF LIFE
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PAGE 03 KASUL 00889 04 OF 04 301321Z

FOR MONTHS. REGIME/SOVIET CONTROL OVER KANDAHAR IS PROBABLY STILL GREATER THAN IT WAS AT THE END OF 1981. THE LACK OF A MAJOR OPERATION NEAR KANDAHAR MAY INDICATE THAT AT THE MOMENT SOVIET TROOPS ARE TOO BUSY ELSEWHERE.
COLDREN

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